

Besser's treatments were certainly perplexing and Torrey & Gray thought to clarify<sup>1</sup> them, by giving a brand new but unnecessary name to the plant with villous heads: *Artemisia borealis*, " $\beta$  *Besseri* . . . *A. borealis*,  $\alpha$  *Purshii*, *Bess.* . . . excl. syn. *Pursh*"; while they correctly treated *A. spithamea* as a separate variety: " $\delta$  *spithamea*: . . . at length glabrous . . . *A. spithamea*, *Pursh!* fl. 2, p. 522. (At length glabrous throughout; . . . )" Very recently Hall and Clements, merging *A. borealis* with *A. campestris* L., coined the combination *A. campestris*, subsp. *spithamea* (*Pursh*) Hall & Clements<sup>2</sup> for the plant with "Involucre densely villous"; but from the facts above stated it should be clear that *Artemisia spithamea* Pursh was a plant with heads glabrous or essentially so, while the unfortunately named *A. borealis*,  $\alpha$  *Purshii* Bess. was repeatedly described by Besser as the plant with villous involucre.

#### GRAY HERBARIUM.

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RAYLESS ASTER MULTIFLORUS.—In the first part of October of this year (1926), while walking through a sandy field here in Groton, I noticed, among the thousands of individuals of *Aster multiflorus* that covered the field, a patch of plants that looked peculiar to me, and upon closer examination I discovered the total absence of ray-flowers in them. Otherwise they had the characters of typical *Aster multiflorus*. There were five or six plants in the colony.

I understand that this is the first mention of this *Aster* without ray-flowers. Specimens are to be deposited in the herbarium of the Connecticut Botanical Society.—K. P. JANSSON, Groton, Conn.

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THE ROMANCE OF ECONOMIC BOTANY. In an attractively written book<sup>3</sup> Donald Culross Peattie tells the story of man's history as controlled by the discovery and use of a comparatively limited number of plants. Each chapter is a readable story, replete with romance and pleasing touches, but all pervaded by a serious purpose. The

<sup>1</sup> T. & G., Fl. ii. 417 (1843).

<sup>2</sup> Hall & Clements, Phylog. Meth. in Taxon. 123 (1923).

<sup>3</sup> CARGOES AND HARVESTS by Donald Culross Peattie. 311 pp. New York and London. D. Appleton & Co. 1926. \$2.50.